

Labor-1927

Demand for

KING COTTON CREATING A NEW DIXIE WEST OF ROCKIES

Negro Farmers Supplanting Mex-
icans and Japanese in Cotton
Districts of California and
Arizona.

(Pacific Coast News Bureau)

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Aug. 8.

—But few who read of the great Pacific Southwest know or realize that from six to ten million acres in California alone are suitable for growing cotton. And that in the great interior valleys in which the climate is suitable for cotton, lies the world's greatest area of rich, level irrigated land.

California, the most varied of all the States in the Union, climatically speaking, has 128,000 acres in cotton plantings this year, a decrease of 34,000 acres harvested in 1926. These entire plantings are in the Sacramento Valley, the San Joaquin Valley, the Imperial Valley and the Palo Verde Valley. Across the Colorado river from the Palo Verde Valley lies Arizona with 140,000 acres in cotton, 46,000 acres of which is planted Pima Egyptian long staple cotton.

Perpetual sunshine, lack of boll weevil, elimination of the dreaded wet June of the South and water when you wish it, are the magnets which are drawing the Negro cotton farmer from the South.

In the Palo Verde Valley, a day's auto ride from Los Angeles, the Negro has located, bought land or homesteaded and is developing a New Dixie west of the Rockies.

In a vivid description of what the Negro is accomplishing in this district as well as in the homesteading area across the Colorado river in Arizona, John Owens, writing in the "American Life Magazine", says:

"California and orange blossoms are familiar associations, but the fact that the cotton blossom is about to supersede the orange blossom in social and economic importance is news to many. Cali-

fornia already produces more cotton than Missouri and each year the cotton acreage is being expanded. So important has cotton production become in the economic life of the state that several spinning mills are already located about Oakland, and the various commercial associations of the state are seriously considering making cotton-milling a major industry.

"Whenever we find cotton we may look for the Negro. As one large rancher remarked to the writer: 'the three just seem to go together, cotton, the mule and the Negro'. Cotton is raised in quantity in three parts of the state. In the famous Imperial Valley and Palo Verde Valley in the extreme south of the state along the Colorado river; in Coachella Valley, farther inland and the San Joaquin Valley in the central portion of the state. This article will deal in detail with the Palo Verde Valley, since cotton and alfalfa are practically the only crops produced there, and conditions here are typical of all the state cotton belts.

"Agriculture is carried on here through irrigation methods as the rainfall amounts to practically a negligible quantity. All the land farmed is reclaimed desert land, the source of water-supply being the Colorado river. The region has enjoyed considerable publicity recently due to the discussion and filibuster in the last Congress over the Boulder Canyon Dam Bill. This bill provided for control and storage of the Colorado, the development of hydro-electric plants, and the further extension of irrigation projects, converting desert areas into tillable localities.

"The climate is very mild the year round, there being practically no winter. During the summer it is extremely warm, the usual range being from 110-117 degrees Fahrenheit; from September to March cooler weather is encountered. The days are mild but the nights are cool, reaching a freez-

ing temperature during January and February. At no time during the year does the weather reach a freezing temperature during the day.

"Many of the farmers raise two crops each year, a winter wheat or some other hardy grain such as barley is raised during the winter season and is harvested about March. This leaves ample time to plant cotton. Due to the usual late appearance of frost, cotton planted the first week in June will have time to mature, although an early frost sometimes curtails the production of a second crop of late cotton."

California.

Labor 1927

General

Demand for.

Canadian Industries May Use Surplus Negro Labor in Lake District

Workers Needed to Relieve Situation Brought About
by Decreased Immigration Into Country From
England

By CHARLES T. MAGILL

Canadian industries, which are rapidly recovering from the slump that has prevailed there during the past few years, are likely to absorb the excess Negro labor in such lake industrial centers as Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and Buffalo before the year has ended. This fact was indicated by a Department of Labor official, who recently made a survey of those industrial centers.

One important fact in this industrial recovery, will soon feel the pinch of a labor shortage. Immigration into Canada from England, due to the fact that unemployment in that country which has been about 20% is now being reduced and male labor, which has heretofore been abandoning England for Canada, is now staying at home. This reduction may make a gap which the sturdy colored sons of Dixie may fill.

TO RETAIN U. S. CITIZENSHIP.

Because of the nearness to the large cities of this country, and their ability to return "home" at will, it is not thought that the Negro departees will relinquish their United States citizenship and residence. On the contrary, the Negro migration has been carefully inventoried. Employment, however, in Canada along the border will be in such demand shortly that the Canadian authorities will give little thought to the holding of U. S. citizenship by the migrants.

For some time there has been a considerable overflow of Negro labor along the lake front cities. Until recently the automobile factories have carried reduced pay-rolls and Buffalo and Cleveland iron and steel mills, working on part-time, have turned into channels of idleness a considerable number of Negro laborers. These laborers have already shown their ability to perform efficient work side by side with both native and foreign-born labor.

This, it is thought, has proven to Canadian employers that the Negro is more than ready, when needed, to answer the industrial call of the Canadian provinces which, if they continue their rapid

Whether or not an exodus of colored labor "floaters" and excess workers from the American lake front cities would seriously cripple these cities is a question that cannot be answered until the 1927 Negro migration has been carefully inventoried. Employment, however, is rapidly expanding all along the lake front. With the efforts of southern chambers of commerce to hold in the South any colored labor that has shown inclination to migrate northward, and with the restrictive immigration policy in full force and effect, it would seem that if a Negro exodus into Canada occurs a labor shortage along the lake fronts itself might ensue.

Labor - 1927.

Texas.

Demand cor.
**LABOR OFFICE OPENS FOR
COTTON PICKERS**

(Preston News Service)

DALLAS, Tex., Aug. 26—The Federal branch of the labor service, Department of Labor, which will aid Texas cotton growers to obtain pickers throughout the season, started functioning Tuesday with the arrival of G. T. Adams, who will be in charge of the office of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. Texas farmers seeking pickers will register with the bureau at once, stating the number of pickers desired and arrange for the transportation with the government, Mr. Adams said.

Several thousand farmers were aided by the bureau last year and as many more are expected to call on the office for help again this year, he said. There is no charges for the service, either to the farmer or to the person seeking work in the cotton fields. Cotton picking will get under way within a week or two.